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Re:

You should receive 10 page(s) including this one.
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Ex'r Brown - Per your conversation with Dan Kluth today, attached are copies of the Response and IDS filed December 12, 2001 for 09/503,553. I've also included a copy of the stamped return postcard showing the PTO received these papers on January 8, 2002. Please let me know if you need anything else.

-Tina Pugh

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In re Patent Application of: Christophe Pierrat et al.

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING PRINTING OF A PHASE
SHIFT MASK HAVING A PHASE SHIFT ERROR

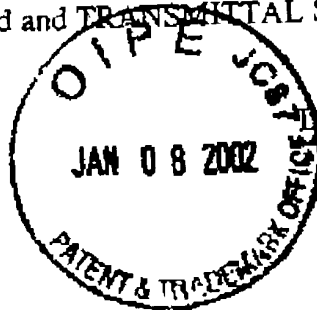
Serial No.: 09/503,553

Filing Date: February 11, 2000

Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following in the United States Patent and
Trademark Office:

CONTENTS: An Amendment and Response (4 Pages); a Supplemental Information
Disclosure Statement (1 pgs.), Form 1449 (1 pgs.), and copies of 3 cited references; a check
in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee for consideration of Information Disclosure
Statement under 97(c); a Return Postcard and TRANSMITTAL SHEET.

Mailed: December 12, 2001
MLB/tmp



Docket No.: 303.311US2
Due Date: December 13, 2001

S/N 09/503,553PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christophe Pierrat et al. Examiner: Khaled Brown
Serial No.: 09/503,553 Group Art Unit: 2851
Filed: February 11, 2000 Docket: 303.311US2
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING PRINTING OF A PHASE
SHIFT MASK HAVING A PHASE SHIFT ERROR

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 13, 2001. No claims have been amended, canceled or added; as a result, claims 23-62 remain pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 23, 32, 34, 36, and 39 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1, 3, 4, and 33 of U.S. Patent No. 6,096,457. Applicant notes the double patenting rejection, and will appropriately address this rejection upon the close of prosecution when all of the pending claims are otherwise found to be allowable.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 23-62 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shiraishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,944). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant does not admit that the Shiraishi reference is prior art, and reserves the right to swear behind it at a later date. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are distinguishable over the Shiraishi reference at least for the reasons provided below.

The Office Action makes a broad rejection of claims 23 - 62, stating:

Re clms 23-62: Shiraishi discloses a system (Fig 1) comprising: an illuminator (1); a phase shifting mask (13a); and a restrictor (58 controls 17) adapted for adjusting illumination parameters to compensate for a phase shift error (Col 11, lines 33-45) in the phase shifting mask, a restrictor providing off-axis illumination is disclosed (Col 3 lines 3-12) and restrictor optimizes printing of the alternating phase shifting mask using empirical data (Col 12 line